

# **HIPAA-related activities / issues in NCHICA**

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Subcommittee on Standards and Security

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## What is NCHICA ?

- 501(c)(3) - nonprofit research & education
- Formed by Gov.'s Executive Order in 1994
- 150+ members including:
  - Providers
  - Health Plans
  - Clearinghouses
  - Professional Groups
  - Research & Pharmaceutical
  - Government Agencies
  - Vendors
- Implement secure technology in healthcare

# HIPAA Implementation Planning Task Force

- Goal:
  - Develop overall strategy for addressing HIPAA compliance in an orderly and most efficient manner possible.
- Coordinate activities of Work Groups:
  - Transactions, Codes and Identifiers
  - Data Security
  - Network Interoperability
  - Privacy
  - Awareness, Education and Training
- 100+ individual from 50+ members

# Transactions, Codes and Identifiers Work Group

- **Goals:**

- Develop consensus on sequence and timing for implementation of transactions & codes.
- Issue and publicize NCHICA Target Date Guidelines
- Build critical mass of providers, health plans, clearinghouses, vendors and gov't agencies.

- **Recent Activities:**

- Preparing document for business partners.

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# Network Interoperability Work Group

- Goals:
  - Understand HIPAA requirements for use of secure communications.
  - Develop method for qualifying and selecting vendors to ensure interoperability.
- Recent Activities:
  - Developing basis for secure transaction & interoperability among NCHICA members

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# Privacy & Confidentiality Focus Group

- **Goals:**
  - Analyze final regulations when issued.
  - Develop map of differences between Privacy Regulations and existing state law.
- **Past Activities:**
  - Worked on privacy legislation since 1995
  - Analyzed and responded to HIPAA Proposed Privacy Regulations.

# Awareness, Education & Training Work Group

- **Goals:**
  - Survey degrees of readiness.
  - Develop programs to share HIPAA information.
  - Cooperate with professional groups and agencies to promote and deliver programs.
- **Recent Activities:**
  - Developing series of survey instruments to determine state of awareness and readiness.
  - Planning underway for regional programs.

# Data Security Work Group

- Goal:
  - Develop self-assessment checklist / tool to determine organization's current level of HIPAA security compliance - gap analysis.
- Recent Activities:
  - Developed **HIPAA EarlyView™** tool.
  - 521 Questions track proposed requirements.
  - Tool available through NCHICA Web site



## Key Issues Raised :

- Effects of delays on timing and availability of resources.
- Concern about the cost of HIPAA implementation (especially Privacy regulations)
- Lack of resources (\$'s and technical) in small and rural providers
- Disparity of opinion concerning under what circumstances to commit significant resources to comply with each part of the regs (i.e. Identifiers, Transactions/Codes, Security, Privacy)

## Additional Materials:

- **“Top Ten Planning Points for HIPAA Compliance”**

(developed as briefing tool to obtain support from top management).

- **Organization Chart**

(note balance in co-chairs with representation from providers, health plans, vendors and government agencies).

# **NCHICA**

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